

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /016 R

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S/S-O: D. MACK

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R 202302Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCUSNAVEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

S E C R E T STATE 198316

EXDIS, MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

CINCUSNAVEUR FOR POLAD

USDOCOSOUTH FOR POLAD

FOL REPEAT ATHENS 6216 SENT ACTION SECSTATE AUG 18

QTE

S E C R E T ATHENS 6216

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, MILI, MASS, MMOL, IS

SUBJECT: AMMUNITION SHORTAGES AT SOUDA BAY: DELIVERY OF
SECRETARY'S LETTER TO BITSIOS

REF: A-STATE 195262 B-STATE 187196 C-ATHENS 5984

1. IN THE ABSENCE OF AMBASSADOR FROM ATHENS, DCM
DELIVERED TO BITSIOS TEXT OF SECRETARY'S LETTER RE-
GARDING AMMUNITION SHORTAGES AT SOUDA BAY. HE TOLD
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BITSIOS THAT SHORTAGES HAD CREATED VERY DIFFICULT PROB-

LEMS FOR US AND, AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE, WE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED THE GOG TO RETURN MISSING AMMUNITION. NEVERTHELESS, IN VIEW OF THE PERSONAL REQUEST MADE BY BITSIOS TO SECRETARY IN HELSINKI, THE SECRETARY HAD ARRANGED THAT AN EXCEPTION SHOULD BE MADE IN THIS CASE.

2. BITSIOS READ THE SECRETARY'S LETTER CAREFULLY AND UPON COMPLETING IT ASKED THAT HIS PERSONAL APPRECIATION BE EXPRESSED TO THE SECRETARY FOR HIS HELP IN RESOLVING THIS DIFFICULT PROBLEM. BITSIOS SAID THAT HE WOULD ADVISE AVEROFF OF DECISION REACHED AND WOULD SUGGEST THAT AVEROFF CONTACT EMBASSY DIRECTLY TO DISCUSS AT THE TECHNICAL LEVEL WHAT AMOUNTS AND TYPE OF AMMUNITION SHOULD BE RETURNED AND WHAT GOG WOULD HAVE TO PAY FOR.

3. DCM THEN ADVISED BITSIOS THAT REPRESENTATIVE ASPIN OF THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE, WAS AWARE OF THE SOUDA BAY SHORTAGES AND WAS PRESSING FOR DECLASSIFICATION OF THE INFORMATION. HE TOLD BITSIOS THAT ASPIN AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEES HAD BEEN GIVEN CONFIDENTIAL BRIEFINGS BUT THAT USG WAS NOT AUTHORIZING THEM OR ANYONE ELSE TO RELEASE INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC. DCM ADDED THAT IN EMBASSY BRIEFING OF SENATORS EAGLETON AND PELL THIS MORNING, SENATOR EAGLETON'S ADMINISTRATIVE AIDE, BRIAN ATWOOD, HAD RAISED SUBJECT OF SHORTAGES AND HAD BEEN ADVISED ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT WAS ACTING TO CORRECT THE SHORTFALL. DCM PROVIDED BITSIOS WITH THE GIST OF PRESS GUIDANCE TO BE USED IN WASHINGTON, IF SOUDA SHORTAGES SHOULD BECOME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE THROUGH A LEAD (STATE 187196 AND ATHENS 5984).

4. BITSIOS AGAIN EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE SECRETARY'S ASSISTANCE AND SAID THAT HE WOULD ADVISE CARAMANLIS OF THE DECISION AND ALSO OF THE PROPOSED PRESS GUIDANCE. IF SENATOR EAGLETON RAISED THE QUESTION OF THE SOUDA SHORTAGES WITH CARAMANLIS OR BITSIOS, THEY WOULD RESPOND ALONG THE SAME LINES.

5. DEPARTMENT REPEAT TO OTHER ADDRESSEES AS DESIRED.

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